Life on the Edge of Literary Warrant

Library of Congress Subject Headings and New Music

Keith Knop
Florida State University
The Future of Music in LCSH
I got 99 problems
and many of them have to do with heading scope

Mouseketier music – Here are entered compositions ... for solo mouseketier, etc.
I got 99 problems
and many of them have to do with heading scope

"Acousmatic music is intended for loudspeaker listening and

Simon Emmerson and Dennis Smalley, “Electro-acoustic music,”
New Grove Online, Oxford Music Online, Oxford University Press.
Genres and forms make very convenient headings

What do we do with music where the *process of creating or performing it* has the limelight?

- Pauline Oliveros, *The Witness*
- Stephen Montague, *Chew Chow Chatterbox*
- John Cage, *4′33″*
- Györgi Ligeti, Poème symphonique
- “Aleatory music”
Nontraditional means of sound production?

Sound effects music  (May Subd Geog)

Here are entered compositions not in a specific form or of a specific type consisting of sounds produced by means of various objects or devices not normally regarded as musical instruments, and collections of such compositions in several forms or types. Compositions for a specific medium of performance are entered under headings such as Balloon music; Computer printer music, etc.

BT Music

SA headings for forms and types of music that include "sound effects" and headings with medium of performance that include "sound effects."

See bibliography for video link.
Nontraditional means of sound production?

See bibliography for video link
So what do we do?

- Keep proposing subject headings as we need them?
  - Requires research to establish literary warrant
  - Need to be a SACO institution or go through a funnel
  - Doesn’t address issues with existing headings needing to be disentangled or reworked first
  - Scattershot approach is probably a contributing factor to current state of things
A thorough and extremely scientific examination of tags


University of Pennsylvania (PennTags)
- Few music tags
- Existing tags very broad
- Mostly used only a few times

University of Michigan (MTagger)
- Retired in 2012 due to lack of use in favor of a “favorites” system
WorldCat?
What’s the deal?

1. There are no tags.
2. People don’t use the no tags.
3. No one adds tags because they’re useless.
To the internet!

Last.fm

- Large user base
- Users are explicitly interested in music
  - ...including more esoteric corners of the discipline
- Well-utilized tagging system
- Tagging system is easily accessed and browsed
Potentially Useful Tags

- Taken directly from tags
  - Acousmatic
  - Outsider music
  - Sound art
  - Xenharmonic

- Related concepts
  - Flutebox(ing) → Extended techniques
Questions?


*Daft Punk - Aerodynamic on Eight Floppy Drives*, 2013. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lq34Ob7Gsg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lq34Ob7Gsg).


